



STORM WARNING, MONO LAKE

Marion Randall Parsons

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*September
1953*

Miscellany

To honor the late Duncan McDuffie, a 13,271-foot peak in Kings Canyon National Park has been named Mount McDuffie. The name was recommended by the Sierra Club and endorsed by the National Park Service. It is good to know that our well-loved former president will always be remembered among the mountains he knew so well, and fitting that a great peak should have the name of a man whose life was so largely spent preserving the mountain wilderness.

The appointment of Walter L. Huber to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, was announced recently by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay. Mr. Huber, who for many years served as a director of the Sierra Club, and during that time in most of the capacities a director can serve, is now an honorary vice president. He knows the conservation picture well, both past and present. We think that Secretary McKay is to be congratulated on his choice of this wise conservationist.

Planes Prohibited. The U. S. Appeals Court at St. Louis in May upheld former President Truman's executive order prohibiting aircraft flights over roadless areas of Superior National Forest in Minnesota. Three resort owners and

an airplane service operator were enjoined from providing air service to resorts in the areas, to which they said the only practical means of entry was by air.

Purpose of the Truman order was to minimize the threat of easy assaults by hunters and reckless tourists on the forest's abundant wildlife, and to preserve the wilderness character of the region.

Vanishing Americans, according to the California Department of Fish and Game, are the fisher and his cousin, the wolverine. When they finally disappear from the high Sierra—their last California refuge—they'll be gone forever.

Said George Seymour of the Game Conservation Branch: "They cannot live with man. They require great, unbroken wilderness solitudes, which obviously even California can't much longer retain."

Authors attention! The Annual SCB, 1953, will be in the mails soon, and the Editorial Board is planning an annual magazine for next year to appear in mid-spring. Deadline for writers is December 15, 1953. The range of subjects suitable for the *Bulletin* is as wide as the range of club purposes, and new contributors are encouraged. Send your manuscripts, or your ideas in outline, to the Editor at the San Francisco club office.

THE SIERRA CLUB,* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast. Since these resources receive best protection from those who know them well, the club has long conducted educational activities to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 38

SEPTEMBER, 1953

NUMBER 7

... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE ...

For the September Record

Marion Randall Parsons

Sierra Club people have come down out of the mountains now, and back from the rivers, returning from an array of club outings which could hardly have been dreamed of nearly half a century ago when Marion Randall Parsons wrote for the *Sierra Club Bulletin* her first article, entitled "Some Aspects of a Sierra Club Outing."

Whether or not she dreamed of it in 1905, Marion Parsons knew in June that hundreds of people, many of them personal friends, were about to enjoy the mountains she loved. But she wasn't here to welcome them back. Chances are that a good many of them now feel in some measure what she felt and wrote about in the concluding paragraph of her first article:

"For a little while you have dwelt close to the heart of things. You have lain down to sleep in a wide chamber walled about by mountains rising darkly against the lesser darkness of the sky, where stars looked down on you between the pines, stars more brilliant than on the frostiest night in the lowland; you have awakened to the laughter of streams and the songs of birds. You have lived day-long amid the majesty of snowy ranges, and in the whispering silences of the forest, you have thought to hear the voice of Him who 'flies upon the wings of the wind.' And these things live with you long after the outing is passed and you are back in the working world, linger even until the growing year once more brings around the vacation days, and you are ready to turn to the hills again, whence comes, not only your help, but

your strength, your inspiration, and some of the brightest hours you have ever lived."

Mrs. Parsons served the Sierra Club well. She was a Director from 1914 to 1938, and an Honorary Vice-President from then until her death on July 17 following a brief illness. She served on the Editorial Board of the *Sierra Club Bulletin* continuously from 1911, contributing 17 articles and many reviews in the course of that time. Her last article, "Mono Vignette," appeared in the 1952 annual magazine; one of her paintings illustrating that article is this month's cover.

In lower Strawberry Canyon, part of original Berkeley, she surrounded herself with beautiful things—her garden, paintings and books, her picture windows with views of the bay and the live oaks. Her own perceptive paintings and writings are just a part of the beauty she has left for others; the rest is the vivid picture, in the minds of her friends, of a radiant person.

Summer Roundup

New and noteworthy among the summer outings were the three trips to Dinosaur National Monument on which some 180 Sierra Club members idled and sped down 84 miles of the Yampa and Green rivers and saw for themselves why the spectacular canyons these rivers have carved should be protected in a national park. Last March at a hearing in Washington, one congressman stated that these canyons were too hazardous for any but Bureau of Reclamation engineers. None in the Sierra Club parties, whose ages ranged from 4 to 77, will agree.

This of course was just part of the most

comprehensive and most participated-in program of outings (1,200 people!) the Sierra Club has ever had. For the bright hours these people have enjoyed, there will be many inspired hours in years to come as they fulfill the need to assure for another generation the mountain opportunities they have in this.

For thus has one organization increased in stature. As of August 4, the Sierra Club has 8,172 members, scattered in 46 states and 15 foreign countries. The two states we must do something about are Delaware and Louisiana. Would anyone care to start a chapter there? We understand that plans of our members in the Northwest to start a chapter in their region are well under way and we have a letter on our desk asking how to start a chapter in Missoula, Montana!

While we don't want to depreciate in the least the importance to the club of the 90 per cent of its members who live in California, we still think those who live elsewhere have an unusual opportunity to give special help to the conservation ideals of the club. For example, in the campaign to give full protection to Dinosaur National Monument, probably the most critical of our present campaigns, it is well to have out-of-state members express themselves. There are always a few suspicious people who tend to think a Californian's only interest in the Colorado River is that its lower western bank should always be wet.

We'll have more to say about Dinosaur in a special monthly issue on that subject now under preparation by Martin Litton, photographer, writer and member of the Editorial Board. Other publications news: The fifth edition of *Starr's Guide* came out in July and the three-color maps will be ready to catch up with the books already sold by the time you read this, thanks to the diligence of Walter Starr. The 1953 annual magazine number is scheduled for October, and just now we're trying hard to remember just when the date scheduled and the date delivered happened to coincide. The *Climber's Guide to the High Sierra* is, under the capable coördination of Hervey Voge, moving faster than it has ever moved before, and all copy by now is presumed to be in, some of it for the second time, with produc-

tion to follow soon. The second printing of *Going Light—with Backpack or Burro* is all but gone, and we have accumulated minor notes of changes for the third printing, which should be ready this fall—at which time penicillin, having made way for aureomycin in the second printing, will be back in the lead.

Another publication in a sense is the Sierra Club film made during the summer's Dinosaur outings by Charles Eggert, a New York member who is a professional photographer. This is still being edited and funds are being sought to assure wide distribution of many copies. It will be in color and sound—16 millimeter. Inasmuch as it was Professor Bradley's personal color movies—plus his barnstorming tours—which brought about the 1953 club outings to Dinosaur, we can have high hopes for the effectiveness of several copies of a new film if they can carry their message many places in the country at the same time.

Nor have the mountaineers been idle. Locally, El Capitan buttress has yielded to a *tour de force*. Members of the California Himalayan Committee are home from successful ascents of Mt. Robson and Mt. McKinley. The sad note of course is the tragedy on K-2 which has been reported in the newspapers. Arthur Gilkey, who lost his life on the expedition, was a member of the Atlantic Chapter. On behalf of the Sierra Club, President Leonard has extended his sympathy to the expedition and members of the family.

Coming Up

It's too early yet to try to predict Sierra snows for this winter. Our only source is Weldon Heald's article (*SCB*, June 1949), which has been referred to constantly ever since he wrote it and which predicted the bonus winter of 1951-52. It is a little hard to determine from Mr. Heald's wording just how he would like his prediction for 1953-54 to be interpreted. We'll drop him a card and let you know what comes of it. But we might as well let you know right now that we are uneasy; the six-inch fall we had in the High Sierra August 31 portends a neurotic winter—calm when we want snow, and blowing stormy when we want to ski.

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Our prediction-of-things-to-come department is always uneasy when we try to forecast weather or publication dates. But we confidently predict anything else, such as additions to the regular program of outings: Three more trips down the Yampa and Green from Lily Park to Split Mountain followed by a fourth trip from the Gates of Lodore down through Split Mountain; a one-week outing to Grand Teton National Park, followed immediately by a two-week outing to Glacier National Park, both to be pack trips, High Trip style. Other predictions upon request.

D.R.B.

Clean Roadsides

Telling photographs in the August issue of *Motorland* call the attention of all the readers (we hope) to an article on the campaign which has been launched to "Keep Our Roadsides Clean." The cooperation of the motoring public is being sought by many organizations, including the California State Automobile Association, to maintain the beauty and cleanliness of our highways and byways.

The careless littering of the roadsides with paper, cartons, cans, bottles and other trash, has been going on a long time, but it is getting worse as the state's population increases. Just as the Sierra Club's clean camps campaign is chiefly aimed to awaken the careless camper to the dirty camp situation, so this one is intended to call the attention of the careless motorist to the horrors of litter which is flung so lightly from the car but comes to rest in sodden ugliness by the roadside. We hope it may come to be just as much a social error to throw trash out the car window as it is for a California motorist to throw out a lighted cigarette or match.

The article warns those who deliberately strew household garbage along the roadside: the law is catching up with them!

ANTICIPATION VACATION

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Photo Competition

An opportunity tailored to fit those who have followed our advice (see "Picture Puzzle," May *SCB*) is offered by the Clean Camps Photographic Salon to be held at Los Angeles during October. Both black-and-white prints and color transparencies may be entered, singly or in series. The types of pictures desired are those showing littered campsites (before and after clean-up); stream or lake dumping of refuse; trash-strewn picnic areas; proper clean-up methods; and despoiled beach wilderness.

Entries will be judged, and certificates will be awarded. Prize-winners will be displayed at the annual dinner, southern section, on October 17, and at Los Angeles club headquarters from October 19 to 31. Deadline for entries is October 1. Copies of rules are available from Mrs. Ruth Stephens, 119½ West Cerritos, Glendale 4.

As for good pictures on other subjects of interest to the Sierra Club, we're still eager. By mail, guided missile or dog-sled, send them to the Editor.

High Sierra in 3-D

Through the co-operation of the High Trip and the William Shand Memorial Fund (which is financing the publication of *A Climber's Guide to the High Sierra*) the main club library in San Francisco has assembled fairly complete aerial coverage of the High Sierra from the northern boundary of Yosemite National Park to the northern boundary of Kings Canyon National Park, including Glacier Divide and Evolution Lake.

With stereoscope and strip (a row of overlapping air photos), even a novice photo-interpreter can enjoy the sensation of flying over the Sierra at an elevation of about 25,000 feet, and discover, thanks to stereo-magnification, topographic detail he never dreamed existed—hidden lakes, meadows, cross-country routes, glaciers, and so on. The vertical magnification results from the pictures having been exposed at intervals of about a mile and a half—a little farther apart than the interpupillary distance of most people we know. Consequently, some

of the talus slopes seem almost to overhang and low ridges to look like insurmountable obstacles. Once a person makes the necessary mental adjustment however, he can discount the heights properly and fascinate himself by the hour scouting out potential trips.

Report on Olympic National Park

ON MAY 19 a committee from The Mountaineers, of Seattle, met with Governor Langlie to discuss Olympic National Park. From numerous newspaper articles advocating a reduction in size of this park and which indicated that the Governor supported such a step, the club requested an opportunity to present its viewpoint. It was felt that Governor Langlie had probably talked only with people who saw nothing in a tree's value beyond the board feet to be converted into dollars.

The Mountaineers' spokesman pointed out that the number of visitors to Olympic National Park had been continually increasing from the time of its creation in 1938. These hikers, fishermen, sightseers, campers—the average tourist—all contribute to the financial betterment of the state. Two or three days are the minimum at present needed to drive to and explore parts of the Olympic Peninsula and its park. These visitors don't go to see logged over land, which is quite an eyesore in large areas outside of the park. They go to see the virgin rain forests with their superb large trees, drippy moss, wild flowers, ferns and other vegetation in its original environment. They want to catch a glimpse of the Roosevelt elk when foraging in the forests at low altitudes. These visitors feel the inspiration and wonder of a remaining bit of the wilderness that abounded in the Northwest only one hundred years ago. They may or may not be aware of the foresight of some men in assuring the preservation of this small portion of the original Olympic Peninsula for today's and tomorrow's enjoyment. But—they are delighted at having the opportunity to see some of what the pioneers first saw.

IT WAS POINTED OUT, too, that timber for logging is still available in virgin forests existing outside Olympic National Park in

An expert can determine such minute details as the height of individual trees. And how else could John Blinks, Harvard Medical School student, have known exactly where to look for the twenty-four-inch golden trout he caught on the 1952 High Trip?

the five counties. The State's own school lands in large measure still remain untouched. As the gigantic trees diminish for the saw log economy, the second growth forests furnish material for the pulp industry. Inasmuch as man will never let the forests he has put an axe to again mature to full growth, he reduces the saw logs each time a virgin tree is felled. If he were permitted to take out the trees now protected in Olympic National Park, the point would be reached where he had no choice but to turn to pulp production completely. However, with proper forest management on the three and one-quarter million acres of public and private land on the peninsula not under protection of the National Park Service, the supply will far exceed the demand within the next fifty years—and without touching or disturbing the natural environment of the virgin forests in Olympic National Park.

It has been frequently claimed that Olympic National Park is the largest in the country. Below are the sizes of some of the National Parks.

Yellowstone	3472 sq. mi.
Mt. McKinley	3030 sq. mi.
Everglades	1892 sq. mi.
Glacier	1583 sq. mi.
Olympic	1401 sq. mi.
Yosemite	1189 sq. mi.
Big Bend	1117 sq. mi.
Grand Canyon	1009 sq. mi.
Sequoia-Kings Canyon	1314 sq. mi.

From this one can see that there are four National Parks larger than Olympic National Park and four more National Park areas nearly the size of Washington's peninsula park. We might take a look at our neighbor in Canada. Not only is Canada wisely setting aside National Parks on a large scale, but her Provinces are establish-

ing Provinces of natural monument of their part of Denmark.

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ing Provincial Parks to insure the preservation of natural areas to prevent encroachment of the mechanized civilization. Some of their parks are larger than the country of Denmark.

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES give the percentage of National Parks and National Monuments in some of our country:

State	Size (Sq. Mi.)	Total Size National Parks and Monuments (Sq. Mi.)	Percentage of National Parks and Monuments in State
California	158,693	7,085	4.2%
Hawaii	6,412	270	4.2%
Wyoming	97,914	3,683	3.8%
Florida	58,560	1,892	3.2%
Washington	68,192	1,778	2.5%
Alaska	586,400	10,834	2.0%
Arizona	113,909	2,086	1.8%

The people in these States and Territories are proud to have natural areas of national importance. The State of Washington can well be proud to boast that she had men with vision to put Olympic National Park as well as Mount Rainier National Park beyond the reach of commercial exploitation. We today can appreciate these beauty spots. If we continue to insure the maintenance of this virgin country, our successors in another hundred years will look back with pleasure to the "ancients" in the Twentieth Century for leaving them a bit of God's creation.

—from *The Mountaineer*, July 1953

Glacier Peak Wilderness

Probably within the next year, the United States Forest Service will hold hearings to determine the boundaries for a secluded wilderness area in the state of Washington, potentially one of the finest in the country, to be known as the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area.

The proposed area extends from near the roadheads above Wenatchee Lake northward almost to Cascade Pass. It varies in width and contains some of the finest alpine meadows in the Cascades, in addition to rugged, heavily glaciated mountain ranges, but tragically eliminates most of the river areas which contain the virgin forests.

It is hoped that boundaries will be estab-

lished that will be free from future pressure but at the same time include the forests necessary for full enjoyment of the region.

Call for Volunteers

From Hornback, Denmark, the Associated Press reported recently:

"Six hundred citizens followed a call for volunteers to clear the beach of this seaside resort in preparation for a three-day festival. In two hours, while 1,400 looked on, the 600 combed the sands of four tons of derelict articles and litter, including several sets of false teeth and one wooden leg. To inspire the diggers, the city fathers had buried hundreds of bottles of beer in the sand."

And now, a volunteer detail to comb out some empty beer bottles?

ALMANAC

*This is the first in a series of excerpts from Aldo Leopold's
A Sand County Almanac.*

GETTING up too early is a vice habitual in owls, stars, geese and freight trains. Some hunters acquire it from geese, and some coffee pots from hunters. It is strange that of all the multitude of creatures who must rise in the morning, only these few have discovered the most pleasant and least useful time for doing it.

Early risers feel at ease with each other, perhaps unlike those who sleep late, they are given to understatement of their own achievements. Orion, the most widely traveled, says literally nothing. The coffee pot, from its first soft gurgle, underclaims the virtues of what simmers within. The owl plays down the story of the night's murders. The goose on the bar lets fall no hint that he speaks with the authority of all the far hills and the sea.

The freight, I admit, is hardly reticent about his own importance, yet even he has a kind of modesty: his eye is single to his own noisy business, and he never comes roaring into somebody else's camp. I feel a deep security in this single-mindedness of freight trains.

GENERAL LIBRARY.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

ANN ARBOR, MICH.

Highest Coastal Mountains

What do you think is the mile-high mountain closest to the coast in California?

To back up a statement he made that Old Man Mountain in the San Rafael Range is the one, Eugene Serr III of Los Padres Chapter prepared a brief table ranking the coastal mountains of California in order of the highest within increasing distances from

the coast. He used the latest available U.S.G.S. topographic quadrangles. Even so, he found that everyone did not agree with the maps. The Automobile Club of Southern California states that Twin Peak in the Santa Lucia Range is 5,265 feet—a good 100 feet higher than the Survey gives it. Here is the table. Any additions?

Limiting Distance from Coast			Actual Distance from Coast	
Miles	Mountain	Elevation	Miles	Range
1	West Cape San Martin Top.....	2,650+	1.0	Santa Lucia
2	Rock Slide Peak.....	3,800+	1.8	Santa Lucia
3	Twin Peak.....	4,850+	3.0	Santa Lucia
5	Cone Peak.....	5,155	3.2	Santa Lucia
10	Old Man Mountain.....	5,525	9.4	San Rafael
15	Monte Arido.....	6,025	10.2	San Rafael
20	Big Pine Mountain.....	6,828	19.2	San Rafael
30	Reyes Peak.....	7,488	20.6	Pine Mountain
40	Mount Pinos.....	8,826	35	San Emigdio
50	Mount San Antonio.....	10,080	46	San Gabriel
75	Mount San Geronio.....	11,485	66	San Bernardino
100	Mount Shasta.....	14,161	97	Cascade

Editor
Sierra Club Bull
Dear Sir:

Palo Alto, Calif.
22 August 1953

I realize that you probably don't want to run articles in your bulletin that seem in any way to advertise some particular product. However, since I know that you are interested in products of potential value to mountaineers, desert explorers, etc., you might care to make an exception in this case and mention in your columns that the Phantomatic Products Corporation has perfected a new process and will soon be in a position to market at least small quantities of RETAW. (RETAW is our trade name for dehydrated water.) Because of the greatly reduced weight and volume, making it possible

to carry relatively large quantities with little difficulty (in special plastic bags), RETAW should be of inestimable value to desert travelers. RETAW is similar to dehydrated vegetables, etc., except that it has a smaller bulk because of the removal of more liquid; and like them it can be restored to its original volume and approximately to its original condition simply by soaking or (preferably) boiling in water. This of course offers no problem, since fuel and water are available practically everywhere.

Sincerely yours,

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